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STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON 26 AND 29 JUNE 1992

Statement of 26 June 1992

I regret to inform the Council that the situation in Sarajevo has deteriorated considerably today. The Bosnian Serb forces have increased their bombardment of the area of Dobrinja, a suburb of Sarajevo close to the airport. UNPROFOR has reported that tank and infantry attacks were carried out and heavy artillery has been used against the civilian population. While the forces of the Presidency of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina have retaliated with attacks on two Serb-held areas, UNPROFOR has no doubt that the primary responsibility for the current bloodshed lies with the Serb forces, who are clearly pursuing their attempt to capture Dobrinja. This is occurring despite an agreement, made public yesterday, by the Serb side to stop shelling civilian areas and to abide by a unilateral cease-fire.

I condemn the continued Serb attacks in Sarajevo and call upon the Serb side to cease these attacks immediately. A further military advance into Dobrinja is incompatible with the spirit as well as the letter of the 5 June agreement on the basis of which UNPROFOR has endeavoured to open the airport. In the circumstances, unless the present military offensive by the Serb side ceases and there is evidence over the next 48 hours of actual relocation of heavy weaponry into areas of concentration to be supervised by UNPROFOR, I will have no choice but to reassess the feasibility of UNPROFOR implementing the agreement. It would then be up to the Security Council to determine what other means would be required to bring relief to the suffering people of Sarajevo.

Statement of 29 June 1992

Following my statement to the Security Council on Friday, 26 June about the situation in and around Sarajevo airport, I am pleased to inform the Council that the latest reports from the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar, indicate that considerable progress has been made towards the assumption by UNPROFOR of responsibility for the airport. Serb

forces have been withdrawing from the airport, and both sides have begun the process of concentrating their heavy weapons in locations to be supervised by UNPROFOR. Though an absolute cease-fire has not yet been achieved, it is the recommendation of the Force Commander, which I endorse, that UNPROFOR must seize the opportunity offered by these developments. I therefore request the Council to grant the authorization foreseen in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 758 (1992) to deploy the additional elements of UNPROFOR necessary to secure the airport and make it operational.

If the Council agrees to my request, it is my intention to instruct Gen. Nambiar immediately to redeploy to Sarajevo airport on an interim basis the Canadian battalion at present located in Sector West in Croatia; to request the Government of France to make available immediately the air traffic control and air lift control elements it has offered to contribute to UNPROFOR; and to request the countries concerned to deploy three smaller battalions to Sarajevo as soon as possible. These three smaller battalions would then replace the Canadian battalion which would return to its duties in Croatia in due course.

If it grants the authorization I have requested under operative paragraph 4 of resolution 758, the Security Council may wish to call strongly on all parties to make the cease-fire absolute. In particular, in view of the pattern of fighting that has been evident in recent days in Sarajevo, I would request the Council to join me in appealing to the Presidency of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise the utmost restraint in this situation, and in particular not to seek any military advantage from the Serb withdrawal from the airport today. It is important that the humanitarian objectives of this UNPROFOR action be kept firmly in mind by all parties.

In this connection, President Mitterrand of France informed me in advance of his visit to Sarajevo yesterday and subsequently briefed me on its outcome, stressing that his objectives were purely humanitarian and coincided with those of the United Nations.

The Force Commander has also requested me to urge all Member States who may wish to send humanitarian flights to Sarajevo to delay doing so until such time as the airport is fully under the control of UNPROFOR and all heavy weapons have been concentrated at UNPROFOR-supervised locations. Moreover, arrangements for the operation of the airport and for the reception and distribution of any humanitarian supplies that may be flown in are not yet complete. I will report to the Security Council on 1 July about progress achieved in this regard and I shall keep the humanitarian agencies and organizations closely informed.